

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03

DODE-00 ERDA-05 PM-04 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 SAJ-01 /102 W

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R 011730Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3303

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 16108

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, SA, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG DENIES NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH

AFRICA

REF: A) BONN'S A-205 OF MAY 16, 1975 (NOTAL);

B) PRETORIA 2182 (NOTAL); C) BONN 15743

1. SUMMARY: REBUTTING CHARGES BY AFRICAN NATIONALIST CONGRESS, FRG SEPT. 26 DENIED THAT IT IS COOPERATING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT (SAG) IN NUCLEAR FIELD. 1974 VISIT BY FRG GENERAL TO SOUTH AFRICAN FACILITY HAS ADDED TO DEBATE ON WEST GERMAN-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR TIES. END SUMMARY.

2. LAST WEEK BONN OFFICE OF SOUTH AFRICAN LIBERATION

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MOVEMENT NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC) HELD PRESS

CONFERENCE, AND RELEASED BROCHURE TITLED "NUCLEAR CONSPIRACY", IN EFFORT TO PROVE THAT FRG IS HELPING SAG DEVELOP URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY WITH ULTIMATE USE IN WEAPONRY. FROM ALL ACCOUNTS BROCHURE IS CLEVER MIX OF FACT AND INFERENCE BASED ON WEST GERMAN-SOUTH AFRICAN CONTACTS IN FIELD OF JET NOZZLE TECHNOLOGY VITAL TO URANIUM ENRICHMENT. ANC CLAIMS THAT: (A) STEAG POWER COMPANY OF ESSEN (IN WHICH FRG IS MINORITY SHAREHOLDER) AND NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER IN KARLSRUHE (WHICH DEVELOPED FRG'S JET-NOZZLE PROCESS FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT) ARE HELPING SOUTH AFRICANS APPLY THIS PROCESS TO THEIR URANIUM ENRICHMENT FACILITY AT PELINDABA (REF B SAYS FACILITY IS AT VALINDABA); (B) SAG HAS ORDERED COMPRESSORS FOR THIS FACILITY FROM WEST GERMAN MACHINERY COMPANY, MAN; (C) SAG ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD CHAIRMAN ROUX HAS HELD TALKS WITH STEAG IN ESSEN; AND (D) FRG REP AT NATO MILITARY COUNCIL, GENERAL GUENTHER RALL, VISITED PELINDABA LAST YEAR. LATEST ISSUE OF STERN HAS SIMILAR STORY ABOUT RALL'S VISIT.

3. REACTIONS TO ANC CHARGES CAME QUICKLY. FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SEPT. 26 DENIED ANY FRG-SAG GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR FIELD. HE DID NOT RULE OUT POSSIBLE CONTACTS BETWEEN PRIVATE COMPANIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT HE STRESSED THAT (A) TRANSFER OF SENSITIVE TECHNOLOGY OR EQUIPMENT WOULD REQUIRE FRG EXPORT LICENSE AND (B) FRG HAS RECEIVED NO APPLICATION FOR SUCH LICENSE. MINISTRY DEFENSE SPOKESMAN CONFIRMED SAME DAY THAT RALL HAD VISITED SOUTH AFRICA AND PELINDABA SITE LAST OCTOBER, BUT INSISTED HE DID SO ON PRIVATE BASIS. PAPERS REPORT OCTOBER 1 THAT DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER HAS ORDERED INVESTIGATION OF RALL VISIT. IN ANSWER PRESS QUERIES, MAN DENIED IT HAD RECEIVED SAG ORDER FOR COMPRESSORS, AND STEAG DECLINED COMMENT ON ITS LINK WITH SAG, PENDING STUDY OF ANC BROCHURE.

4. COMMENT: SINCE FIRST STEAG CONTACT WITH SAG AUTHORITIES IN 1973, FRG HAS REPEATEDLY DENIED CONFIDENTIAL

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GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TIE IN NUCLEAR FIELD, EVEN THOUGH BOTH STEAG AND NUCLEAR RESEARCH CENTER HAVE WORKED WITH SOUTH AFRICANS ON NUCLEAR-RELATED SUBJECTS. STEAG WAS WORKING EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH SOUTH AFRICANS TO COMPARE MERITS OF THEIR RESPECTIVE JET-NOZZLE TECHNOLOGIES (REF A). FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE RECENTLY TOLD US STEAG HAS DECIDED THERE IS NO ECONOMIC REASON TO COOPERATE WITH SOUTH AFRICANS

IN THIS FIELD, ALTHOUGH WE NOTE DPA REPORT (FBIS
302212Y NOTAL) CLAIMING THAT STUDY NOT YET COMPLETE.
FRG OFFICIALS ALSO CONFIRM THAT WEST GERMAN COMPANY,
KRAFTWERK-UNION, REMAINS IN CONTENTION FOR SAG
CONTRACT FOR ATOMIC POWER PLANT. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

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